

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2006

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MEDIA ADVISORY

PUBLIC SCIENTIFIC MEETING WILL EXAMINE FUNDING STRUCTURES FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH AND THERAPIES

Stem Cell Agency Organizes Meetings for Governing Board and the Public to Hear Expert Information on Strategic Plan

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Tomorrow (5/25/2006), the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) will hold a scientific meeting for its governing board, the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC), and members of the public. This is the first of several public meetings designed to gather information for the drafting of the Strategic Plan. The meeting, "Funding Structures to Advance Science and Therapy," will consist of presentations and open discussion that focus on how CIRM grants can be best structured to facilitate stem cell research.

WHO: CIRM President Zach Hall, Ph.D. and Staff

Members of the ICOC

Michael Rudnicki, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Ottawa, Canada

Michael Amos, Ph.D.
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Richard Insel, M.D.
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Ethan Signer, Ph.D.
High Q Foundation

Jonathan Shestack
Cure Autism Now Foundation

WHAT: The first in a series of public meetings designed for the ICOC and the public to discuss specific topics that are critical to the strategic planning process for CIRM funding.

WHEN: **THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2006**
9:00 am–3:00 pm (estimated)

WHERE: **California Institute of Technology**
The Beckman Institute Auditorium
(On S. Wilson Ave between Del Mar Blvd & San Pasqual Ave.)
Pasadena, CA 9112

WHY: On April 24, 2006, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) formally launched its scientific strategic planning process. The goal is to create a set of priorities and a working plan that will guide the scientific programs of CIRM over the

coming years. The plan's development will involve input from multiple stakeholders—including interviews and a series of public meetings.

The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, composed of members of the ICOC, other leading scientists, patient advocates, and representatives from the private sector, will meet regularly throughout the six month planning process. The ICOC will devote part of their June and August meetings to discussion on the strategic plan, with a draft anticipated for the October ICOC meeting.

In addition, CIRM will host a series of scientific meetings for the ICOC and the public (tomorrow's meeting being the first) at which invited speakers will discuss scientific strategies and approaches to funding stem cell science and the development of related therapies that CIRM might consider. Finally, CIRM will conduct a public hearing entirely devoted to obtaining public input.